

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A headband means for applying a breathing mask to a user and having a flexible band body comprising upper and lower band portions ~~(3, 4)~~ for transmitting the mask holding forces required for applying the breathing mask, wherein at least portions of the band body are made of a foamed plastic material.
2. (Original) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the band body is formed by injecting a pore-forming plastic material in a molding space of a tool.
3. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the plastic material has a skin in the area of its outer surface.
4. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~ claim 1 to 3, characterized in that the band body is provided with a tensile proof insert.
5. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~ claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the band body is provided with a dimensionally stable insert.

6. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1 ~~to 5~~, characterized in that the band body is provided with closure
means for coupling a band bracket portion in an adjustable manner.
7. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1 ~~to 6~~, characterized in that the closure means comprise a locking
structure which is formed integrally with the headband means.
8. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1 ~~to 7~~, characterized in that the closure means comprise a slide
means which can be brought in different closing positions on the headband
means.
9. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1 ~~to 8~~, characterized in that the slide means comprises a locking
mechanism for locking the slide means on the locking structure.
10. (Original) A process for producing a headband means in which a plastic material
intended for forming a tensile proof insert is injected in a molding tool space within
the scope of a first plastic injection step, and within the scope of a subsequent
plastic injection step a pore-forming plastic material is introduced in a molding tool
in such a manner that it covers the tensile proof insert at least partially thereby
forming a cushion portion.

11. (Original) An application device for a breathing mask comprising a headband means which extends in the application position around the area of the back of a user's head, wherein the headband means is provided with a supporting structure and the supporting structure is made of a material which can at least once be brought temporarily in a state in which at least portions of the headband arrangement can be adapted individually to the shape of the back of the user's head.
12. (Original) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure is made of a material which is plastically deformable after having been heated to a temperature of above 300°C.
13. (Currently Amended) The application device according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, characterized in that the supporting structure is made of a thermoplastic material.
14. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~ claim 11 ~~to 13~~, characterized in that the supporting structure forms a stiffening layer.
15. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~ claim 11 ~~to 14~~, characterized in that the course of the supporting structure is adapted to the curvature of the back of the head.

16. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 15~~, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises a
cushion on its inner surface which faces the user in the application position.
17. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 16~~, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises
openings.
18. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 17~~, characterized in that the supporting structure is coupled with
the headband means in a detachable manner.
19. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 18~~, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises arm
portions which extend from a main surface portion in the direction of the headband
portions.
20. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 19~~, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises a
lower edge portion having two lower legs (~~S1, S2~~) which extend in the application
position towards the cheekbone of the user for guiding lower band portions (~~9~~) of
the headband arrangement.

21. (Currently Amended) The application device according to ~~at least one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11 ~~to 20~~, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises an
upper edge portion having two upper legs (~~S3, S4~~) which extend from a starting
zone in the neck area in a direction extending across the ear area.